

Remarks

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action stated that "applicants failed to comment on the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1-12 which is directed "prodrugs" of the compounds of formula I". Applicants previously amended claim 1 to provide that the prodrugs are phosphates, carbonates, amino acids or esters. Thus, it is submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph rejection discussed in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, applicants have deleted any reference to "prophylaxis" from claim 10. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph rejection discussed in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, applicants have amended the definition of Y to address the situation when w is O and have clarified the definition of E with respect to the missing point of attachment of the moiety -NHCOCHX^4 -. Thus, it is submitted that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-13 should be withdrawn.

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action refers to two 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph rejections. Applicants have corrected both errors in claim 1. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Paragraph 9 of the Office Action set forth the basis of numerous objections to the claims that formed the basis of a rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 in an effort to address each point raised in the Office Action.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-13 as presently amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if it would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

If any fees are incurred as a result of the filing of this paper, authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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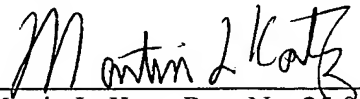
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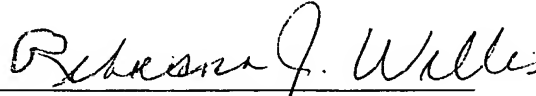
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on October 20, 2004.



Rebecca J. Willis

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